

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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SUBJECT: AID COMMODITY IMPORT LOAN

REF: A. ATHENS 10020; B. STATE 178965; C. ATHENS 7233

1. FOLLOWING ARE THE ADVANCE TEXTS OF REMARKS TO BE DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR KUBISCH AND MINISTER OF COORDINATION PAPALIGOURAS AT THE SEP 22 SIGNING CEREMONY FOR THE AID COMMODITY IMPORT LOAN SCHEDULED FOR 1715 LOCAL TIME. AS REPORTED IN REF A, THE AMBASSADORS DRAFT REMARKS WERE SHORTENED TO COMPLY WITH GREEK TELEVISION TIME REQUIREMENTS. MINISTER PAPALIGOURAS PLANNED REMARKS INCORPORATE SEVERAL OF THE POINTS INCLUDED IN THE AMBASSADORS EARLIER DRAFT. THE SIGNING CEREMONY AND EXCHANGE OF REMARKS IS SLATED TO BE COVERED BY LOCAL MEDIA AND INCLUDED ON THE EVENING GREEK TELEVISION NEWS.

2. AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS:

BEGIN QUOTE

MR. MINISTER

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

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THIS \$65 MILLION AID LOAN WE SIGN TODAY IS PART OF THE

VERY SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OF APPROXIMATELY \$400 MILLION THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS EXTENDED TO GREECE OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS.

AND ADDITIONAL LARGE SCALE ASSISTANCE IS IN PROSPECT.

THIS PROGRAM IS VIRTUALLY UNPRECEDENTED BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT NORMALLY EXTEND SUCH ASSISTANCE TO NATIONS WHICH HAVE ACHIEVED GREECE'S RELATIVELY HIGH LEVEL OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

MR MINISTER, AS YOU KNOW, MY COUNTRY WELCOMED THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN GREECE. THUS, THE POLICIES OF THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN SHAPED TO GIVE SUBSTANCE TO OUR BELIEF THAT GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES SHARE MOST WHEN WE SHARE FREE INSTITUTIONS:

--OUR TWO PEOPLES ARE UNITED BY DEEP TIES OF HERITAGE AND FAMILY;

--IN THE POST-WAR ERA GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES SHARED IN GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS AS THE WESTERN WORLD RECOVERED FROM THE DEVASTATION OF WAR;

--TODAY THE UNITED STATES AND GREECE HAVE IN COMMON THE UNIQUE, HUMANISTIC PERSPECTIVE WHICH FREEDOM PROVIDES TO PEOPLES PRIVILEGED TO POSSESS IT;

--AND FINALLY, WE ARE CONFRONTED BY COMMON PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES AS THE PEOPLES OF THE WEST SEEK TO ASSURE THAT OUR CHILDREN WILL ENJOY THE SAME FREEDOMS THAT WE POSSESS.

IN OUR ECONOMIC PROGRAMS WE HAVE ASSISTED GREECE THROUGH LARGE SCALE MILITARY LOANS AND GRANTS, CREDITS AND INSURANCE FROM THE EXPORT IMPORT BANK, FINANCING FROM THE COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION, STRONG SUPPORT FOR GREECE AT MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE WORLD BANK AND THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND, AND NOW THROUGH THIS NEW \$65 MILLION LOAN.
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MAY I ALSO SAY, MR MINISTER, HOW PLEASED WE WERE TO NOTE THE RECENT OPENING IN BRUSSELS OF FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO GREECE'S FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. AS YOU KNOW, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FULLY SUPPORTS THIS FURTHER SIGNIFICANT STEP IN GREECE'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS, WHICH WILL FORGE LASTING AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL LINKS WITHIN A

COMMUNITY OF NATIONS WHOSE IDEALS AND ASPIRATIONS WE ALL SHARE.

THUS, AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, I AM ESPECIALLY PLEASED AND HONORED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS IMPORTANT SIGNING CEREMONY TODAY.
END QUOTE.

3. REMARKS IN REPLY BY COORDINATION MINISTER PAPALIGOURAS:
BEGIN QUOTE:

MR. AMBASSADOR:

THE LOAN OF 65 MILLION DOLLARS THAT WE ARE SIGNING TODAY IS A SMALL PART OF THE AMERICAN AID GRANTED, AS YOU HAVE JUST SAID, TO GREECE UNDER SPECIAL CONDITIONS.

ITS DURATION IS FOR 25 YEARS, INCLUDING A PERIOD OF GRACE OF FOUR AND A HALF YEARS.

THE USE OF THIS LOAN IS NOT SUBJECT TO ANY POLITICAL PRECONDITIONS AND CONSTITUTES A DIRECT CONTRIBUTION AIMED AT STRENGTHENING THE GREEK ECONOMY.

FINALLY, IT IS TRUE THAT SUCH LONG-TERM LOANS WITH SUCH FAVORABLE CONDITIONS ARE NOT GRANTED BY AID TO COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE REACHED THE LEVEL OF GREECE'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUT ONLY IN VERY SPECIFIC AND EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

YOU REFERRED, MR. AMBASSADOR, TO THE TIES WHICH UNITE OUR TWO NATIONS. I WILL REFER TO THEM AS WELL. DURING THE LAST TWO WORLD CONFRONTATIONS, WHEN EVEN THE GREATEST POWERS OF THE WORLD NEEDED ALLIES, WE FOUND OUR-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SELVES SIDE-BY-SIDE DEFENDING HUMAN DIGNITY AND OUR COMMON DEMOCRATIC TRADITION. BUT EVEN TODAY, TWO HUNDRED YEARS AFTER THE AMERICAN DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND 25 HUNDRED YEARS AFTER THE BIRTH OF DEMOCRACY IN ATHENS, OUR TWO NATIONS FEEL THE NEED TO SECURE THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS AND THEIR POLITICAL LIBERTIES AND TO TRANSMIT INTACT THESE VALUES TO THE FUTURE GENERATIONS.

WE GREEKS DO NOT FORGET AND WE DO NOT HESITATE TO RECOGNIZE PUBLICLY THAT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS CONTRIBUTED TO A LARGE EXTENT TO THE EFFORTS OF RECONSTRUCTING AND, IN THE SECOND PHASE, OF DEVELOPING EUROPE AND ESPECIALLY GREECE AFTER THE DEVASTATION CAUSED BY THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS HAS TAUGHT THE GREEK NATION THAT FOREIGN POLICY AND ECONOMIC FOREIGN POLICY IN PARTICULAR IS NOT DICTATED ONLY BY MORAL IMPERATIVES BUT ALSO BY THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTES OF EACH COUNTRY. ALL THE SAME, THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF SUCH INTERESTS - SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM. BOTH COUNTRIES STAND TO SATISFY THEIR IMMEDIATE AND SHORT-TERM INTERESTS. THE UNITED STATES, ON THE OTHER HAND, BY SUPPORTING EUROPE AND GREECE CERTAINLY DID NOT ACT OUT OF PURE CHARITY BUT THEY DID HAVE THE COURAGE AND WERE READY TO GIVE WHATEVER WAS NEEDED TO SUSTAIN US. OUT OF THIS REALISTIC APPROACH WE MAY DEDUCE THAT THE LONG-TERM INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND GREECE COINCIDE. IT IS UP TO THE GOVERNMENT OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES TO DRAW FROM THE ABOVE BASIC OBSERVATION IN EACH PARTICULAR CASE THE PRACTICAL CONCLUSIONS.

SPECIAL SENTIMENTAL FAMILY TIES, AS YOU VERY APPROPRIATELY REFERRED TO THEM, MR AMBASSADOR, EXIST BETWEEN US. A LARGE NUMBER OF AMERICAN CITIZENS OF GREEK DESCENT ARE IN THE UNITED STATES SUCCESSFULLY ENGAGED IN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, SCIENTIFIC, CULTURAL AND EVEN IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. AND THEY DO COMBINE, ACCORDING TO A NOBLE, DEMOCRATIC AND CHARACTERISTICALLY AMERICAN TRADITION, LOYALTY AND DEVOTION TO THE UNITED STATES WITH THEIR LOVE FOR THE LAND OF THEIR ANCESTORS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR ALL THESE REASONS, MR. AMBASSADOR, I CONSIDER MYSELF ESPECIALLY HAPPY IN SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT WITH YOU.
END QUOTE.

4. GREEK AND ENGLISH TEXTS OF PRECEDING REMARKS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO PRESS AT TIME OF SIGNING.
KUBISCH

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